Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The novel we’re getting ready to read *The Scarlet Letter* is about a Puritan woman named Hester Prynne. As such, we need to think about the role women played in Puritan society and how they felt about life in Massachusetts Bay Colony. Two of the most famous women who lived in the colony were Anne Hutchinson, who’s referred to by name in the novel, and Mary Dyer, of whom a statue still stands in Boston Commons (a big park in Boston). Before reading “The Silencing of Mary Dyer,” you’ll need to have the following conceptual vocabulary. As you read the story, one of things I’m going to ask of you is to write down, underneath their definitions, why each word is important to understanding the story.

Based on their fundamentalism and the Eve’s punishments for eating the forbidden fruit, what do you expect to hear about women’s status in Puritan New England? You should refer to the vocabulary exercise you did on hierarchies before reading “A Model of Christian Charity.”

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1. Patriarchy – Society ruled by men

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2. Theocracy – Government in which the society’s religious leaders are also in charge of its civil regulations.

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3. Heresy - Acting or speaking against the rules of a religious organization. Someone who does this is a heretic. “Blasphemy” and “heathen” are words that are very strongly connected if not actual synonyms.

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4. Martyr – To suffer or die in the name of a cause.

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5. Deference plays a huge role in this story, so don’t forget it from reading “The Garden of Eden.”

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